



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
**Library Assistants' Association.**

---

Vol. 2.

JANUARY, 1901.

No. 16.

---

L.A.A. MEETINGS—LONDON, MANCHESTER.

PRACTICAL BOOKBINDING, BY CEDRIC CHIVERS.

THE BIBLIOMANIAC.

SOME LIBRARY LITERATURE.

THE STUDY CIRCLE—QUESTIONS ON DECEMBER  
READING.

READINGS FOR JANUARY.

APPOINTMENTS.

NOTICES.

... SOME COTGREAVE LIBRARY AIDS ...  
A FEW TESTIMONIALS.

---

## The Indicator.

"LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, FITTINGS, AND FURNITURE."  
By F. J. BURGROYNE. 1897.

"The Cotgreave Indicator is that in use in the majority of the British Free Libraries."

"THE FREE LIBRARY: ITS HISTORY AND PRESENT CONDITION."  
By J. J. OGLE. 1897.

"The Recording Indicator is almost certainly the invention of Mr. A. Cotgreave (Public Libraries, West Ham, London, E.), and is that most largely used."\*

### "THE SCOTSMAN."

"All the London Free Public Libraries which use indicators, except one, have adopted the Cotgreave System, which has been found to work well."†

N.B.—See also "Greater London," by E. Walford, M.A., F.S.A. (page 360); Methods of Social Reform," by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., F.R.S., LL.D.; "Public Libraries," by T. Greenwood, F.R.G.S.; &c., &c.

\* As a matter of fact it will be found in about nine-tenths of the Libraries using Indicators. Over 300 Institutions are now using it.

† Sixty-two Public Libraries in London and the Metropolitan area are using it.

---

## The Simplex Shelf Support

(PATENT)

The Shelves can be raised or lowered by one person without moving or disarranging a single book, and in half the time required by any other system. No space is lost; no mechanism to get jammed, or otherwise out of order, or nip the fingers; no danger to Bindings by projecting metal or wooden fittings; no tilting of shelves. The Fittings are entirely out of sight when the Books are in position, unless more space is allowed between the shelves than is generally required. While No. 1 is perhaps best for very heavy books, No. 2 is quite safe for ordinary books, and is cheaper and more readily fitted.

---

NEARLY READY.

## The Contents-Subject Index,

TO GENERAL AND PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

Price to Subscribers, 7s. 6d.

Price when published, 10s. 6d.

(800 copies have already been subscribed for. See List).

### "DAILY NEWS."

"A 'Contents-Subject Index to General and Periodical Literature' would, if properly done, be a great time-saving machine. Such a work is being undertaken by Mr. A. Cotgreave. The first part, which is now before us, is distinctly promising. It will be helpful to many students and readers."

### "DUBLIN REVIEW."

"The Editor of the 'DUBLIN REVIEW' (Canon Moyes), desires me to thank you for the specimen of the 'Contents-Subject Index,' and to say that he has formed a high opinion of it, in fact he has already found it useful."

T. W. HUNTER, Librarian, Archbishop's House, Westminster.

---

Full particulars of the above and also of other Library Aids sent upon application to the

**LIBRARY AIDS CO.,**  
166a, Romford Road, Stratford, London, E.





# The Library Assistant:

*The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.*

---

No. 37.

JANUARY, 1901.

Published Monthly.

---

## THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895.

SIXTH SESSION.

YEAR 1900-1901.

*Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements may be expected.*

### JANUARY MEETING.

The fourth meeting of the session will be held at 8 p.m. on the 16th of January at the St. George-in-the-East Public Library, 236 Cable Street, E., by the kind invitation of Mr. F. Meaden Roberts, who has also consented to preside. Messrs. Anderson and Farnell will read their Prize Essays on the "Duties of a Library Assistant," and the "Use and abuse of Hobbies for Library Assistants." It is hoped that members, and especially junior members, will attend in large numbers upon such a very interesting occasion.

### FEBRUARY MEETING.

A meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on February 6th at Cripplegate Institute, Golden Lane, E.C., when Sir Edmund Verney, Bart., will give a lecture on "Old Bibles," illustrated with limelight views.

### DECEMBER MEETING.

The third meeting of the Session was held at the Battersea Public Library on Wednesday, December 12th, when Mr. Cedric Chivers addressed the association on "Practical Bookbinding." Owing chiefly, no doubt, to the short notice given, the meeting was smaller than usual.

Mr. Lawrence Inkster took the chair at 8 p.m., and in opening the proceedings expressed his pleasure at seeing the L.A.A. at Battersea and wished they could be there more often. In introducing Mr. Chivers, the Chairman said he had known him nearly 20 years, and that it was very gratifying to him to be allowed the opportunity of presiding when Mr. Chivers was

going to speak. He thought the subject was a very proper one for consideration at such a meeting, as the calls on the rates were so numerous that we should learn all we could about bookbinding if only on the score of economy. The lecturer, as we all well knew, was in every respect a highly practical man, and he would now call upon him to address the meeting.

Mr. Chivers prefaced his remarks by observing that he did not come as a professional binder, but as a friend who was prepared to answer questions on practical work, and for this reason he had prepared no paper to read, but would briefly sketch the process of binding a book, and then invite queries. In order to gauge how far we were conversant with the art he would enquire if we had all read Zachnsdorf's book. Only three were able to reply in the affirmative. In the course of his remarks Mr. Chivers said that the way the ordinary 6-novel was bound by the publishers was called in the trade "case-binding," not "book-binding." He spoke at some length on the advantages and disadvantages of this case-binding, and compared it with the French "brochure-binding," which consisted simply of putting the volume in a paper cover. He thought our method of case-binding infinitely superior to the French system. He argued, however, that there was plenty of room for improvement in the present "case," but lamented that it was highly improbable any alteration would be made yet awhile. Undoubtedly the best way to purchase books which were to be subjected to hard wear, was to buy them in sheets, and have them bound in your own way. Naturally books are weakened by rebinding, and he strongly advised having them bound well in the first place. This was especially necessary with valuable art books. Librarians should insist in having them in sheets, as the publishers cannot afford to put them in good binding, and the result is that they fall to pieces very quickly owing to the heavy paper, and have to be rebound. This weakens the paper by the extra sewing, pulling away old glue and putting on fresh, and, in no very long time, the work is entirely worn out. This led Mr. Chivers to speak on the very bad paper which is now used principally for novels. He had no hesitation in saying it was a reproach to publishers. Sometime ago the various library associations approached the publishers with the idea of getting a set of each popular work printed on better paper for use in the Public Libraries. The publishers, however, would not do anything in the matter, so, of course, it fell through.

Mr. Chivers then demonstrated the best way to fasten a loose leaf. He urged that paste should always be used in preference to gum. The inside edge was to be freed from all foreign substance, and then laid flat, a piece of clean waste paper should be laid over it leaving about one sixteenth of an inch of the inner edge exposed, this should receive the paste which would hold it firmly in its place. On no account was more paste to be used. In the case of heavy paper a double hinge was by far the best remedy. The method of oversewing was then clearly explained by Mr. Chivers and examples shewn round. It was suggested that steel corners to the covers would add to their strength. A piece of metal might be driven into the millboard which would be better than the metal sheath now used. Mr. Chivers believed the idea would be an excellent one and well worth trying. A great deal of mischief was often done in opening a new book, and Mr. Chivers said that the proper way was never to make an angle in the back, but always to open a volume in such a manner as to make the back describe an arc or semi-circle. He insisted on this, as on the first opening of a book the length of its life to a large extent depended.

Remarking on the various leathers, he thought that morocco was the best for general purposes, but was somewhat disappointed in pig-skin. Persian was not good on account of the varying thicknesses in a skin. Vellum he recommended now as a very good wearing article. On being asked whether it did not shrink after a time, he replied that ordinarily it did, but this was owing to its having been stretched by the dealer. Vellum, in its natural state, was transparent, but the pulling made it opaque. He was able to procure it in its original state, which not only did not shrink but had the advantage of being transparent so that any label, or reading matter could be seen through it.

On request Mr. Chivers briefly narrated the process of marbling book-edges, which he explained was done with chemicals. Questioned as to whether string or tape was the better material for sewing books on, he replied that tape was undoubtedly of greater utility than string. Tight or loose backs depend wholly on the paper, thick spongy paper being best in a loose back, which should also be used for large books. Thin volumes were best in tight backs.

The discussion was joined in by all present and some very interesting and valuable information was learned in that way. Mr. W. G. Chambers then rose to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Chivers, who had, he said, come all the way from Bath on purpose to talk to us. He had been pestered with questions which he had answered in every case with laudable lucidity.

W.B.T.

## NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The Second Annual Meeting of the North-Western Branch was held in the committee room of the Manchester Reference Library on the evening of Wednesday, 12th December. The attendance was smaller than was anticipated, about a third of the branch members being present, but they made up for quantity by businesslike work.

Mr. J. H. Swann (the Chairman) opened the proceedings, when the new Branch Rules were submitted for approval and confirmed, a suggestion as to a limit of age for juniors being ruled out of order. Notice was given by Mr. Hy. Percival that he would bring the point before the next annual meeting of the L.A.A. to be held in London in June.

The Committee's report on the year's working was then submitted by the chairman and gave general satisfaction, one or two suggestions were added, and it was adopted and ordered to be printed as usual.

The Auditors, Messrs. Percival and Sutton, having reported the books of the Branch to be in thorough business order and correctly conducted, the treasurer's report was adopted, showing a small balance to credit.

The thanks of the meeting were accorded to the retiring officers, and the following officers and committee were elected—

## CHAIRMAN,

J. H. Swann (*Manchester Reference*).

## HON. SECRETARY,

P. D. Gordon (*Mudie's*).

## HON. TREASURER,

W. Crompton (*Y.M.C.A.*)

Baker, A. (*Chester*), McKenzie, W. M. (*Wigan*), Berry, W. (*Oldham*), Percival, H. (*Owen's College*), Bird, E. L. (*Rylands*), Quarmby, W. (*Oldham*), Dickens, J.D. (*Athenæum*), Sutton, O. J. (*Rylands*).

Other business having been transacted the proceedings terminated with a short discussion on "the Study Circle" which was generally approved and recommended to the members. The usual votes of thanks closed the last meeting of the N.W. Branch of the century past.

## JANUARY MEETING.

This meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16th January, 1901, at 8 p.m. at the Athenæum, Princess Street, Manchester, when Mr. J. H. Swann will read a paper on "The Manchester Literary Club."

SPECIAL NOTICE.—At the annual meeting it was suggested that the N. W. members should inaugurate the social functions

of the Branch with a dinner to be held about February at a cost of 3s. per head. Members in favour of the proposal are requested to send a post card to the Hon. Secretary.

### THE BIBLIOMANIAC.

ADAPTED FROM THE FRENCH OF CHARLES NODIER BY JOHN RIVERS.

You all knew Theodor, on whose remains I pray that the earth may rest lightly.

Twenty years ago Theodor retired from the world to work or to do nothing: which of the two, that was the secret. He passed his life among books, and he occupied himself only with books, which made some think that he was writing a book which would render all other books unnecessary; but these were evidently mistaken.

Theodor had profited too well by his studies to be ignorant of the fact that *that* book had been written some three hundred years ago, *videlicet* the thirteenth chapter of the first book of Rabelais.

Theodor no longer spoke, or laughed, or played, indeed he scarcely ate, and never went to balls or to a comedy. The pretty girls whom he had admired in his youth no longer had any attractions for him, except, indeed, if they wore elegant shoes, when his eyes would become glued on their feet, and heaving a profound sigh he would murmur—Alas! what a waste of good morocco!

At one time he closely followed the fashion; in fact he is said to have been the first to tie his cravat from left to right, in spite of the authorities who tied theirs from right to left. Theodor no longer troubled about fashion. For twenty years he had only one dispute with his tailor: "Sir," said he "if you forget a second time to make my pockets *in-quarto*, this is the last coat I will have from you."

For politics he had a hearty contempt. The foolish enterprises of Napoleon in the North put him in a bad temper, for it would raise the price of Russian leather. He approved of the French intervention in Spanish affairs: "It is a splendid opportunity for the importation of chivalrous romances and *cancioneros* from the Peninsula." But as the expeditionary force took no notice of his suggestion, he was piqued. When anyone said to him "*Trocadero*," he replied ironically "*Romanceiro*," which made people think him a liberal.

One day last summer as he was walking down a busy street collating a book, some honest citizens met him, and, putting a knife to his throat, requested him in the name of liberty of opinion, to cry: "Long live Poland!" "I shall be only too

delighted," said he, "but might I ask for what reason?" "Because we are going to declare war against the Dutch who are oppressing the Poles on the pretext that they do not like Jesuits," answered the friend of liberty, who was a rude geographer and intrepid logician, "Good heavens," murmured our friend, "are we then to be reduced to the sham Dutch paper of M. Montgolfier!"

He escaped from the leaders of civilization with a broken leg.

During his convalescence his sleep was troubled with the most horrible nightmares. One night he dreamt that a fearful-looking monster came to cut an inch off the margins of his sewed Aldi, while another plunged his most valuable *princeps* edition into a devouring acid, so that when withdrawn it was a white, pulpy mass.

Theodor was something of a Greek scholar, that is to say three shelves of his bookcase were filled with books in that tongue—all uncut. Nor did he ever take them down except silently to point out to his most intimate friends the imprint, the printer's name and date of publication. As he was visibly sinking under his fever a doctor was called in who happened to be a man of learning and a philosopher. The doctor recognised that congestion of the brain was imminent, and wrote a report of the case in the "Journal of Medical Science," in which he designated the disease as "morocco monomania" or "bibliomaniacal typhus."

Theodor was recommended to take exercise, and I undertook to walk out with him. Our steps were invariably directed towards the quays, and then we plunged among the bookstalls. It is here that one finds all the books which were lavishly praised by the papers a month back, marked at 50 centimes apiece. Here lie the still-born philosophies, histories, romances of all sorts and sizes awaiting the resurrection which comes not. Theodor sighed. "Ah," said he, "the quays are now only the mortuary of contemporary celebrities!" I drew him away for I feared he would have a relapse.

We reached the shop of a famous bookseller; on seeing Theodor he came out and said, "I am very sorry to say that you are a day late; the books you looked over were all sold yesterday." Theodor staggered and grew pale. His brow took the dark lemon colour of worn out morocco. "How well I knew that some disaster was impending," said he in a faint voice. "But who is the happy possessor of those pearls, those diamonds, those riches without price, which were the glory of the libraries of de Thou and of Grolier?"

"As usual," replied the sympathetic bookseller, "these perfect examples of first editions of the classics with autographs

of learned professors whose names are unknown to the Academy, these wonderful bibliographical treasures have gone to Sir Richard Heber."

Suddenly Theodor pounced upon a small volume, and with trembling hands measured it with his elzivirometer, then he murmured some unintelligible words, and after repeating the performance several times over, fell into my arms in a dead faint. At length I got him home in a cab.

For days he spoke not a word as to the cause of his collapse. But one evening as I sat by his bedside, he said, "You see in me the most unhappy of men! That volume was the Virgil of 1676, large paper, of which I thought I possessed the largest copy, but that volume is taller than mine by the third of a line!"

I was greatly shocked for I saw that he was wandering. "The third of a line!" he cried, again like Ajax fiercely shaking his fist against the heavens.

Then he sank exhausted on his pillow, murmuring "The third of a line! The third of a line!"

"Calm yourself my poor fellow," said I, "the third of a line is not much." "Not much!" he cried again; "do you not know that the third of a line augmented the price of M. Cotte's example of the Homer of Nerli by £125."

For some time after this outburst Theodor remained unconscious. Then one of his friends, a bibliophile after his own heart, called to see him.

"By what fault of pagination is the Elzvirian edition of Cæsar of 1635 to be recognised?" asked he of Theodor. "153 for 149." "Good; and the Terence of the same date?" "108 for 104." "My word," said I, "the Elzivirs were unlucky that year with their figures. They did well not to print their logarithms that year!"

"Wonderful!" exclaimed the friend, "if I had listened to these good people I should have believed you to be at death's door."

"A third of a line," answered Theodor, whose voice failed rapidly.

"I know your history," said the visitor, "but it is nothing to mine. Only eight days ago I lost a Boccaccio of 1527, bound in Venetian vellum, with the a's pointed, and not a single page renovated.

"Are you sure that the a's were pointed?" asked Theodor, "If so it was undoubtedly the *véntisettina* itself."

"There can be no doubt about it. We had a splendid dinner that day—oysters, champagne, and witty people."

"Sir," cried Theodor in a furious voice, "when a *véntisettina* is for sale one does not dine!" This effort exhausted his last

strength, and again gasping the words: "The third of a line," he expired.

We caused the following inscription, which he had parodied from the epitaph of Franklin, to be placed on his tomb:

Here lies a wood-bound copy in-folio of the best edition of man, written in the language of the golden age which is no longer understood. It is now an old book, stained, imperfect, worm-eaten, without frontispiece, and much damaged by decay. One dares not expect for him the tardy and useless honours of a re-impression.

### SOME LIBRARY LITERATURE.

No movement in modern life is complete without its exponent in the periodical press. This usually makes its first appearance as a monthly, and the extent and success of the movement is sometimes demonstrated by the subsequent issue of a weekly, and later perhaps by the dignified quarterly. The library world fell into line with other departments in this regard, when the Library Association unostentatiously commenced its official periodical publications with "Monthly Notes," which was succeeded by the monthly "Library" and "Library Record" in more portly guise, and now the "Library" has bloomed under the skilful care of Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, into the sumptuous quarterly lying before us. Although the field of English librarianship is perhaps numerically too limited for the exclusive service of a paper every week, it must be allowed, when we add the free-lance "Library World," and our humble selves to the list, that bibliothecal journalism has attained a considerable degree of activity. It is, however, with the latest development that we propose just now to deal.

Under the editorship of Mr. Mac Alister, Messrs. Kegan, Paul, and Co., published the first quarterly number of the "Library" in December, 1899, and after mentioning that the editor is in collaboration with four gentlemen who are luminaries of the profession far beyond the boundary of their own countries, we need not dwell upon the general excellence of the contents. A survey of these shows a generous scope for the display of the requisite kind of talent, practical public library work on both sides of the Atlantic, and bibliography in its varied branches in the historical and present day senses being naturally to the fore, superb illustrations lending an added attraction. A pertinent architectural design well redeems the cover from the reproach of repellent plainness invited by the wrappings of some reviews of more general interest.

Upon opening the first number we find a photogravure of Dr. Garnett after Hon. John Collier's portrait of him, the most

pleasing and truthful we have seen, followed by a sketch of the life of its subject. Mr. J. D. Brown's up-to-date information is utilised in a review of library progress in which we are reminded that it is only ten years since there was but one library periodical in England, and one in America. We are glad to note that he thinks the L.A.A. has done some good in the direction of rousing up ambition for culture in the minds of many of the members. The advance in the quality and the quantity of the publications of individual libraries in the form of catalogues, class-lists, readers' guides, and in classification, is not forgotten, and the increasing abundance of professional text-books is noted. "Libraries are no longer regarded as stores for the preservation of books, but as centres for their distribution." No subject connected with the making and get-up of a book is foreign to the librarian's sympathies, and the "Decorative work of Gleeson White," whose designs on the covers of the Cathedral Series, the lives of Albert Moore, and Sir E. Burne-Jones are reproduced here, is sympathetically, but not blindly, dealt with by Mr. E. F. Strange, the author of "Alphabets." Mr. Gilbert R. Redgrave dwells, in a purely bibliographical manner, on a most interesting collation of the "First four editions of English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers," proving that the unravelling of the exact relations of dubious editions may require long and patient ingenuity, when printers errors, and the quality, colour, and watermarks of paper easily turn the scale of evidence. Work of this kind serves literature by indicating properly authorised editions, and the alterations, if any, made by the author, and are at times of some consequence in tracing the action of his mind. "There are still some knotty points to be solved." A table showing the possible grouping of public libraries under the London Government Act, and setting forth those parishes where the Public Libraries Acts have not been adopted, is contributed by Mr. Thomas Mason, and its interest will continue until we learn what steps are taken in dealing with the anomalous conditions created. Mr. John Macfarlane writes on the "Paper duties of 1696-1713: their effect on the printing and allied trades," an historical sketch of no little interest, to which is appended a list of 20 broadsides evoked by the high feeling raised at the time. The magnificent illuminated copy of the "Cité de Dieu" in French, dating from the fifteenth century, and bought by the town of Mâcon in 1835 furnishes M. Leopold Delisle with material for a romantic bibliographical sketch due to the fact that nine of the illuminations were stolen. The story is not yet complete, as five of the missing leaves have been honourably returned after being innocently purchased in the ordinary way of business, but the other four have not yet been

restored, though the location of three of them is discovered. There is an excellent plate representing one of the illuminations. We have previously noted in our columns the most powerful article yet written in favour of Open Access, by Mr. H. K. Moore, a member, we believe, of the Croydon Library Committee. Mr. W. H. J. Weale makes a study in liturgiology and bibliography in his discussion of the newly discovered "Missale Speciale" said to have been printed by Gutenberg prior to 1457. Very interesting is the "Catalogue of Danton's Library" contributed by Hilaire Belloc. Danton was thoroughly conversant with English and Italian, and was a man of catholic reading, Shakespeare, Guicciardini, and Montaigne figuring, with many other classics in a list of less than two hundred books. In "Woodcuts in English Plays, printed before 1660," with quaint illustrations, Mr. A. W. Pollard explores the infancy of this art. Mr. H. W. Fovargue expresses his opinion in "Notes on Library Legislation" that "no better course could be taken to hinder the adoption of the Acts in new districts than to provide by legislation for the removal of the penny limit, or to give to library authorities the power to remove it should they so desire." Mr. F. M. Crunden relates, in the first instalment of "How things are done in one American Library," a practical solution of the 'new novel' problem, but on lines which we fear British rate-supported libraries could not follow. Further items are Notes by Salome C. Fairchild, Mr. Pollard, and Mr. R. Steele respectively on American librarianship, Books and Work, and Science, the last two with annotated lists of important books appended. "Art Exhibitions and Art Catalogues" give Mr. M. H. Spielmann the opportunity to enforce the necessity, now admitted in cataloguing books, of some explanatory matter in addition to the bald title, when drawing up lists of pictures. The number closes with "Libraries of Greater Britain—Australasia" by Mr. J. R. Boosé, concluded in the following number, which whilst not pretending to an exhaustive description, gives a useful bird's-eye view of the movement oversea. We may mention that succeeding numbers contain equally interesting and invaluable articles, amongst others, "Pooling of Private Libraries" by Mr. G. S. Layard; "A notable Publishing House" by Mr. John Minto; "Architecture for Libraries" by Mr. Beresford Pite; "Frankfort Book Mart" by Mr. George Smith; "Open Access Question" by Mr. W. E. Doubleway; "Incunabula at Grenoble" by Mr. R. Proctor; and we believe that the review exercises an influence that we hope to see strongly supported.

Mr. Thomas Greenwood has taken the opportunity of the Jubilee of the passing of the first Public Libraries' Act to re-edit and bring up-to-date his "Library Year Book" of 1897, and to

publish it in the form of the "British Library Year Book, 1900-1901." Without going into details in comparing it with the volume of 1897, it may simply be said that the work is enlarged, not merely because there are 70 more adoptions of the Acts, making a present total of 400, but owing to the insertion of fresh forms of matter. The introduction, in a general survey, takes note of the progress of the movement, giving statistics, with names of lagging communities, and also supplies a list of the "Libraries of the New London Boroughs" and their librarians. The literary articles commence with "Notes for Library Committees," followed by a plea for the removal of the limit to the Library rate, by the Librarian of a Public Library. A practical article on "Some points in library planning," by Mr. F. J. Burgoyne, is well worth careful study for the useful details and general rules it contains. Mr. Jast discourses profitably on a favorite subject, "Library Classification," in a carefully arranged article, whilst Mr. J. H. Quinn deals with "Developments in Library Cataloguing" with his wonted lucidity, giving *pro* and *con* in the discussion on the two varieties of cataloguing mainly in vogue. Mr. Ballinger has a very interesting contribution on "Children and Public Libraries," bearing the stamp of study and experience that may be expected from his hand. Mr. Cecil Davis deals with "Fire Prevention and Insurance," Mr. H. D. Roberts with the "Educational work of the Library Association," and Mr. W. G. Chambers gives an unofficial sketch of the L.A.A. These articles are followed by a very useful list of Public Libraries, alphabetically arranged, each with particulars of establishment, organisation, staff, methods, and name of librarian, and interspersed with portraits of some librarians, and plans, or interior and exterior views, of libraries. A table is then given showing rate, income, work and hours of rate-supported libraries, which is also of great value. "Statistical Abstracts" show in a table the "Progress of the adoptions of the Public Libraries' Acts" by years; places which have not yet put the Acts in force or opened libraries; Branch Libraries, Branch Reading Rooms, and delivery stations; stock; number of borrowers; number of staff, and their hours; women librarians; printed catalogues—dictionary, classified, and author; MS. catalogues; classification; charging for lending; reference issue methods; special features—art galleries, classes, works in foreign languages, grants from excise duties, juvenile or ladies' rooms, lectures, museums, Museum and Gymnasium Acts adopted, music, extra tickets, Technical Instruction Acts adopted, observatory, subscription department, smoking, games; rates, showing where a charge is made for collecting, and exemptions from local rates or income-tax. A list of non-municipal libraries, endowed, collegiate,

proprietary and other, of over 10,000 volumes, is given, and the book closes with a description of the several associations devoted to librarianship, and an excellent index. This, perhaps, bald list of the contents of the Year Book, will at least give a good idea of the thorough way in which the facts relating to public libraries are collected and formed into an epitome of great value to librarianship, and we trust to see it established as a hardy annual with a prosperous future.

The report of the International Congress of women, 1899, on "Women in Professions" contains a discussion, following a paper by Miss Plummer on the "Training of Women as Librarians." Dr. Garrett was in the chair, and strongly urged women not to accept too low remuneration for library work. Miss M. S. R. James also read a paper on "Women and their future in Library work," and the cognate topics were presented with skill to a sympathetic audience. The net result would appear to be a strong encouragement to women to enter library work, but tempered by the fact that small salaries are the rule.

We were somewhat curious to examine a copy of catalogue of the Kimberley Public Library, when we heard that it had been compiled by the Chairman of the Committee, Judge President Lawrence of the High Court of Griqualand, but were agreeably surprised, and not a little edified, by an introductory disquisition which left no doubt of the amateur's familiarity with Wheatley, Panizzi, Bradshaw, and others, to a degree that would benefit some professional compilations if it were applied in their making. The London Library Catalogue is confessedly the judge's model, and an author list is the main content. Fiction is tenderly dealt with, having, in addition to its place in the author list, a title list all to itself, and its serial location in the numerous bound magazines set forth in a further list. Finally there is a good classified index, and we think that in the absence of a trained librarian, the frequenters of the library have been singularly fortunate in the affectionate and laborious care lavished upon this work by so able a man. The Annual Report of the Committee shows a present stock of about 23,000 volumes, less than one-third being fiction. It is interesting to read "that during the recent investment and bombardment of Kimberly, the Library sustained no appreciable damage. During the siege it was found expedient to close the Library in the evenings and on Sundays, but otherwise the work was carried on without interruption. . . . The resources offered by the Library were largely appreciated both by residents and members of the garrison, at whose disposal they were freely placed."

We observe amongst reports of libraries to hand that the new Public Library at Acton speedily justified its existence by an

average daily issue for the first two months of 428 volumes in the lending department, and 21 in the reference. Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador, opened the building. At the Heginbottom Free Library, Ashton-under-Lyne, there was a considerable decrease in the issue of fiction, but an increase in non-fiction. The Juvenile Department is answerable for 11 per cent. of the total issues. Books for the blind are stocked. A course of five lectures proved disappointing, except as regards the last when, lantern views were employed. A somewhat radical change in the regulations at Battersea enables any resident over 21 years of age "to sign a voucher on his or her own behalf without the intervention of a guarantor." Books are supplied to the work-house inmates. The Central Library Fiction Indicator-Key has reached its fourth edition. The following new rule has been adopted at Bootle:—"Any person borrowing a book from the Lending Library to read on the premises may have the book retained for his use on his next visit, provided he indicates at the time of handing back the book when that will be, and provided the whole time during which a single work is thus retained for a reader be not more than seven days." The decrease in the issues, common to most parts of the country this year, is, as at Ashton, accounted for almost wholly in fiction. A 32 page new supplementary catalogue at Carlisle is sold for 2d., and a classified catalogue of books on "Health" was printed and distributed free to purchasers of tickets for a course of Combe Lectures on that subject.

#### THE STUDY CIRCLE.

As fully set out in our December number the text books for the present course are—Jacobi's "Printing" 5s., Stopford Brooke's "Primer of English Literature" 2s., and Quinn's "Cataloguing" 5s. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. W. Brown, has been able to make special arrangements for the purchase of these books at the reduced prices of 3s. 3d., 7½d., and 1s. 4d., and 4s. respectively, and can also enable assistants to spread their payments for the same over a period concluding with the courses for which the books are required. Postage of books must, of course, be paid by the purchaser.

*It is to be understood that the Committee expect that no competitor, after having once commenced to answer the questions, will refer again to the books until that set of answers is completed.*

The following questions are set upon the readings for December, and the papers containing the answers must be sent in accordance with the instructions given in our last issue.

JACOBI.—Define and illustrate what is meant by *relief* and *intaglio* printing.

BROOKE.—Give a short description of the earliest English

Literature, and name one or two of the earliest writers.

SAINTSBURY.—Describe what is meant by a *chanson*, and say what you can about the *Chanson de Roland*.

QUINN.—State what is meant by Author-entry, Subject-entry, and Title-entry, giving one example in each case.

The following are the January readings:—

JACOB. —Pp. 52-101, noticing especially the definitions of the sizes of books, the schemes of imposition, and the signs and marks used in correcting proof.

BROOKE.—Chap. II., reading concurrently Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" or Langland's Vision concerning Piers Plowman."

SAINTSBURY.—Chaps. III., IV.

QUINN.—Pp. 27-49.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

SENIOR.—Messrs. A. H. Edwards (*Liverpool*), Frank Eidmans (*Rotherhithe*), George Fletcher (*Ashton-under-Lyne*),

JUNIOR.—G. P. Jones (*St. George-in-the-East*), P. H. Philips (*Chester*).

#### APPOINTMENTS.

COWARD, Mr. Charles, Senior Assistant, Acton, to be Sub-Librarian.

HURT, Mr. James, M.A., Bodleian, to be Librarian, Liverpool Library Lyceum.

LEIGHTON, Mr. J. M., Assistant, Edinburgh Public Library, to be Librarian, Greenock.

ROCHESTER, Mr. C. F., Sub-Librarian, Acton, to be Librarian.

RYE, Mr. Walter, Lord Crawford's Library, to be Senior Assistant Librarian, John Ryland's Library.

VINE, Mr. Guthrie, M.A., National Library of Ireland, to be Sub-Librarian, John Ryland's Library.

SOUTHALL, Miss E. J., Assistant, Dudley, to be Librarian,

#### NOTICES.

Communications relating to the Journal should be addressed to the *Hon. Editor*, Mr. Henry Ogle, 60 Constantine Road, N.W.

Subscriptions should be paid to the *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. W. G. Chambers, Stoke Newington Public Library, N. Senior Members, 5/-; Junior Members, 2/6; including a copy of the Journal monthly. Subscription to the Journal 3/- per annum to non-members, post paid.

All other communications should be addressed to the *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. J. W. Brown, Public Library, Kingsland Road, N.E.





**TO LET**

## **SPECIAL—TO LIBRARIANS.**

---

**Books Supplied and Bound from the Quire, in  
flexible Pigskin, Morocco, or a Sanitary Washable  
Cloth specially manufactured for us.**

---

### **GUARANTEE:**

**We guarantee that our Binding will outlast the Book,**

---

**BOOKS RE-BOUND.      READERS' TICKETS  
IN LEATHER OR CLOTH.**

---

**Solid Leather Reading Covers, made in one piece, without  
Lining or Stitches; practically indestructible.**

---

**AN INEXPENSIVE READING COVER IN OUR  
SANITRAY WASHABLE CLOTH.**

---

*One of the many Testimonials received by us:—*

**"CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARIES,"**

*December 3rd, 1896.*

Messrs. Banting & Son have been the bookbinders to these Libraries from the commencement, in 1888, and have given every satisfaction.

Their work is lasting, reasonable in price, and carefully carried out.

The fact that they are binders under contract to a large number of Public Libraries is sufficient proof that in this particular line they are difficult to beat.

**J. HENRY QUINN,**

*Chief Librarian and Clerk to the Commissioners.*

---

**PARTICULARS, PRICES, AND SAMPLES ON APPLICATION.**

---

# **J. BANTING & SON**

**Bookbinders and Booksellers,  
KING'S ROAD, CHELSEA, LONDON.**